

A NEW ALOE FROM ANGOLA

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(With Plates X and XI)

Aloe mendesii Reynolds. Species nova, affinis *A. veseyi* Reynolds, foliis magis latoribus, bracteis majoribus, pedicellis longioribus differt.

Planta succulenta, caulibus et foliis et inflorescentia pendentibus, caulibus usque 1 m. longis. *Folia* c. 10, rosulata, ensiformia, 7—8 cm. lata, sensim attenuata et c. 50 cm. longa; *supra* viridia, obscure lineata, planiuscula; *subtus* leviter convexa; marginibus dentibus cartilagineis 1—2 mm. longis, irregulariter 10—15 mm. distantibus armata. *Inflorescentia* pendens, c. 60 cm. longa, 3—4 ramosa. *Racemi* arcuato-adscendentes, cylindrico-conici, 8—10 cm. longi, 5—6 cm. diam. *Bracteae* ovato-acutae, scariosae, 10—12 mm. longae, 4 mm. latae, albidae, 5-nervatae. *Pedicelli* 20 mm. longi. *Perianthium* coccineum, 25 mm. longum, basi breviter stipitatum; *segmenta exteriora* per 6 mm. libera ut videtur. *Antherae* 2—3 mm. exsertae. *Stigma* demum 3 mm. exsertum. *Ovarium* 5 mm. longum, 2 mm. diam. (Plates X and XI.)

ANGOLA. HUÍLA DISTRICT: Lubango, Humpata, Buraco do Bimbe, 2220 m., in bud April 22 1960, E. J. Mendes 3815 (LISC); Bimbe, May 3 1963, R. Santos 1109 (LISC, LUAI)—leaf only with portion of undeveloped raceme; Humpata, Tundavala escarpment, alt. c. 2220 m., July 4 1963, R. Santos et C. Henriques 1131 (LISC, holotype; LUAI, isotype).

Our distinctive new species is named after Dr. E. J. Mendes (Centro de Botânica, Lisboa) who discovered and photographed it in January 1956 on precipice faces of the Serra da Chela, on the western escarpment of Humpata plateau at Bimbe which is approximately 25 Km. (15 miles) W. of Sá da Bandeira, Huíla District, at an altitude of 2220 m. In April 1960, Dr. E. J. Mendes went to Angola again and tried to collect good material at the same locality, but at that time racemes were in young bud only, and open flowers were not available.

Subsequently, in May and in July, 1963, Sr. R. Santos and Sr. C. Henriques (Instituto de Investigação Científica de Angola, Luanda) collected plants again on the Bimbe and rediscovered and collected them also on the Tundavala escarpment which is about 18 Km. (11 miles) N.E. of Bimbe and 16 Km. (10 miles) N.W. of Sá da Bandeira, when plants were mostly in fruit with few flowers left. No spirit material was made, so it is therefore not possible at this stage to figure flowers natural size. It seems that perianth outer segments may be free for about 6 mm.

It appears that *A. mendesii* is closely allied to *A. veseyi* Reynolds from Kalambo Falls, 22 miles N. of Abercorn, Northern Rhodesia. Both species hang downwards on precipice faces, mostly with western aspect, both have similar branched inflorescences with only the racemes arcuate-ascending, and both have 25 mm. flowers.

A. mendesii differs from *A. veseyi* in having much broader unspotted leaves, much longer bracts, and longer pedicels.

DESCRIPTION

Plant pendent, clinging to precipice faces, with stems up to 1 m. long, 4 cm. diam.

Leaves about 10, all hanging downwards, ensiform, 50 cm. long, 7—8 cm. broad; *upper surface* green, obscurely lineate, without spots, flat to very slightly canaliculate; *lower surface* slightly rounded, otherwise as upper surface; *margins* with narrow cartilaginous edge with firm cartilaginous blunt teeth 1—2 mm. long, irregularly 10—15 mm. apart.

Inflorescence pendent with only the racemes arcuate-ascending, about 60 cm. long, 3—4-branched.

Peduncle basally plano-convex and 10—15 mm. broad, 3—4-branched.

Racemes cylindric-conical, subdensely flowered, 8—10 cm. long, 5—6 cm. diam., the youngest buds at first hidden by densely imbricate bracts, open flowers cernuous to sub-pendulous.

Bracts ovate-acute, thin, scarious 10—12 mm. long, 4 mm. broad, 5-nerved.

Perianth scarlet, cylindric slightly ventricose, 25 mm. long, basally shortly stipitate; *outer segments* probably free for 6 mm; *anthers* exerted 2—3 mm; *stigma* at length exerted 3 mm.

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PLATE X. *Aloe mendesii* Reynolds. Whole plant
pendent on precipice face at Bimbe, 25 Km. West
of Sá da Bandeira, Huila Dist., Angola. Approx.
× 1/10.

Photo: DR. E. J. MENDES



PLATE XI. *Aloe mendesii* Reynolds. Raceme $\times$
approx. $1/4$. Photo: ENG. L. GRANDVAUX BARBOSA